

AROUND THE STATES

CALIFORNIA -- A bill requiring new cars sold in the state, beginning with 1991 models, to contain carbon canisters to capture refueling vapors has won 8-3 approval in the Assembly Transportation Committee. The measure also would mandate the use of Stage II devices on gas pumps at all California service stations to control benzene emissions. The gas pump devices are now required in the Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego areas, which have the worst air pollution in the country. The bill, sponsored by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown (D.-San Francisco), was scheduled to be taken up by the Ways and Means Committee this week. It is supported by the Sierra Club and opposed by the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, which claims that the canisters are potentially unsafe and expensive.

NEW JERSEY -- Some 15,000 barrels of radon-contaminated soil that have been stored in Montclair and Kearny are being transferred temporarily to state-owned land in Ocean County, under action taken by Environmental Commissioner Richard Dewling to meet a court-ordered deadline for removal to begin. Dewling's decision pleased Montclair and Kearny legislators, but two Ocean County assemblymen called for the commissioner's resignation, and a third assemblyman threatened to try to block the transfer in court. The barrels will remain at the temporary site, in a wildlife management area near the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, while Dewling seeks a means of permanent disposal.

NEW YORK -- A Newburgh textile company was fined \$130,000 for "a pattern of persistent violations" of air pollution standards dating from 1985 by Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry Williams. Williams suspended \$100,000 of the civil penalty against Arma Textile Printers Inc. on the condition that the firm bring its dyeing and printing plant into compliance with state requirements. Area residents had complained that acrid fumes and plumes of smoke from the plant regularly wafted over a nearby school and playing fields.

PENNSYLVANIA -- Philadelphia area residents have filed a class action lawsuit against Anzon Inc., which operates a chemical plant in the city, charging that the plant is polluting the air and hurting people's health. Anzon and the city's Health Department entered into an agreement in 1984 requiring pollution controls to be upgraded at the factory, where raw lead is converted into powder used in the manufacture of plastics. But some residents, objecting that the firm was granted too much time to reduce emissions, resorted to the suit in Common Pleas Court on June 3. The suit charges that tests on children show "high and dangerous lead content in their bodies."

WASHINGTON -- A \$9.6 million plan for cleaning up a Spokane landfill, which the state's Department of Ecology released on May 24 after two years of study, has been attacked by city officials, residents and industries for allowing less than three weeks for public comment before taking effect. "We just don't feel it's fair -- they've had two years to work on this thing, and they're giving us two weeks," said an official of Key Tronic Corp., which must help pay for the cleanup and wants more time to determine whether the department has chosen the most cost-effective approach. The plan calls for pumping three million gallons a day of contaminated water out of the ground and exposing it to the air to let the water then will be piped into a nearby river.

USEPA SF



1503989

00000186

Colbert